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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are now pending in this application, with claims 1 and 2 being independent claims. Claims 1 and 2.

Regarding the Claim Objections

In the present official action, claim 1 was objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have amended claim 1 pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation. In particular claim 1 was amended as follows: "a MAC buffer, operatively coupled to the traffic policer, for buffering allowed frames received from the traffic policer." In view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding Double Patenting

In the present official action, the claims were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting. Claim 2-9, 11-12 and 14 over pending Application No. 10/751,099, with claim 1 over pending Application No.10/751,099 in view of the cited Allen et al (IBM PowerNP network processor) reference. Applicants have filed herewith the appropriate terminal disclaimer. Applicants and in view of the amendments and arguments made herein, respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

In The Claims

In the present official action, independent claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bass et al (US Patent No. 6,404,752) (hereinafter "Bass), and were also rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Allen et al (document titled: IBM PowerNP network processor: Hardware, software, and applications, IBM J. RES. & DEV. VOL. 47 NO. 2/3, pages 177-193, May 2003) (Hereinafter "Allen").

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 2 and respectfully assert that these claims as now presented are not anticipated by either Bass or Allen, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. In particular, both claim 1 and 2 have been amended to include the limitation such that "each of said one or more MACs operatively coupled to a MAC preprocessor

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and each of said one or more MACs operatively coupled to a MAC postprocessor". Support for these amendments can be found in the present application, at least in Figure 2, elements 220 and 230, and the corresponding detailed description starting on page 5, line 20 through page 6, line 24.

Neither Bass nor Allen, nor any of the cited references, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, anticipate, disclose, teach, suggest or render obvious the present invention as now claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 2 are patentable over the cited references.

Regarding the rejections of claims 3-14, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 2, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 2, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited references.

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CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact the undersigned at 512-306-8533.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 28, 2007

By: _____
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